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December 17, 2004

Authorized Officer Roberto Rábago
Mail Stop PCT, Attention: IPEA / US
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: Reply to First Written Opinion
International Application No.: PCT/US03/40340
Applicant: ExxonMobil Chemical Patents Inc.
Entitled "Polymerization Processes"
Filed: December 19, 2003
Our Reference: 2003B133A

Dear Examiner Rábago:

This letter is in response to the First Written Opinion dated October 29, 2004. Claims 1-58 are before the Examiner. No amendments have been made to the Specification or Claims.

The Written Opinion concluded that claims 1-6, 8-11, 20, 21, 26, 27, 33, 35-46, 48-50, and 52-58 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by D1 (U.S. Patent No. 4,248,988); claims 1-17, 19-21, 26, 27, 33, and 35-58 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by D2 (U.S. Patent No. 5,780,565); and claims 1-6, 8-10, 14-21, 26, 27, 33, 35-37, 42-46, and 48-57 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by D3 (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,783) for the reasons stated in Section V.

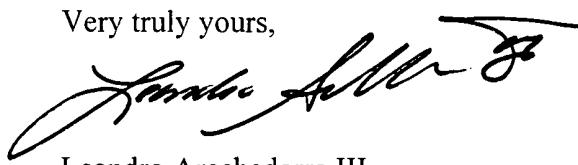
Applicants respectfully disagree. D1 at column 2, line 33, discloses one hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) among a variety of halogenated hydrocarbons. Applicants respectfully submit that the disclosure does not fairly teach the subject claims and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

As for D2, it teaches polymerization systems comprising, among other things, the requisite dispersing agent, see, for example, col. 2, lines 24-27. Such polymerization systems are different in kind from those claimed by Applicants. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that D2 does not fairly teach the subject claims.

As for D3, although there is mention of hydrofluorocarbon solvents (D3 at col. 5, line 13), D3 teaches the combination of titanium catalysts such as titanium tetrachloride with cocatalysts such as aluminum triisobutyl and aluminum triethyl in hydrocarbon solvents such as toluene and n-hexane, see, for example, Examples 1-5. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that D3 does not fairly teach the subject claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 22-25, 28-33 and 34 meet the criteria set forth under PCT Article 33(2)-(4). Applicants respectfully request that novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability be acknowledged for all claims. In the event that the Examiner concludes to the contrary, Applicants respectfully request an opportunity to respond to a Second Written Opinion. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if there are any other issues outstanding which have not been presented to the Examiner's satisfaction.

Very truly yours,



Leandro Arechederra III